THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment extended all possible assistance under the welfare schemes being implemented by it to mitigate the hardships of those affected by the earthquake in Gujarat that took place on 26.1.2001. The rehabilitation package included provision of mobile medical units, setting up of shelters and relief camps, help line for children and the elderly, distribution of aids and appliances, assistance for re-construction and repair of institutional buildings and loaning for proposals relating to self employment and expansion of business through the apex corporations attached wtih the Ministry. Under the Schemes of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) and Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disablities, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) were released amounts of Rs. 155.92 lakhs and Rs. 92.56 lakhs respectively as grant-in-aid. Aids and appliances were distributed to 3537 persons. In addition, a sum of Rs. 2.04 crores was sanctioned to NGOs working in Gujarat for providing relief and rehabilitation services to the victims of the earthquake.

Drug addiction among students

419. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR:
SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that drug addiction among students in schools and colleges and youth is growing;

(b) if so, the effective steps Government have taken or propose to take to control drug addiction;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) At present, there is no system for collecting data in this regard. The Ministry is implementing a programme entitled "Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse" wherein grant-in-aid is provided to the Non Government Organizations for providing preventive education, awareness services, motivational counselling, treatment

and rehabilitation services. Presently, around 450 centres all over the country are being funded under the Programme with an annual allocation of over Rs. 20 crores.

Curb on child beggars

420. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Enterprising beggars both annoying and risky", which appread in the Times of India, (New Delhi), dated the 28th January, 2002; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take to curb child vendors and beggars at various inter-sections of roads posing a danger to drivers and others?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Department of Social Welfare, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Delhi Government, the Bomaby Prevention of Begging Act 1959 is also applicable to Delhi. Under this Act, an anti-begging squad has been constituted and Delhi Police has been authorized for apprehending beggars at public places. These beggars are then sent to 12 custodial institutions being run by the Government, where services like boarding, lodging, medical care, vocational training counselling and guidance are provided for weaning them away from beggary and making them self-reliant.

Children below 18 years of age who are found begging are covered under Juvenile Justice Act. The Government is already running 14 separate institutions for such children where comprehensive services are provided for rehabilitation of the inmates like boarding, lodging, medical care, counselling/guidance, vocational training, education, recreation and placement.